

for nationalistic Koreans. However, North Korean sources claim that Kim Il-sung was behind the design. In 1993, the emblem was further amended to feature Mount Paektu. The mountain is an important symbol of power and legitimacy of the Kim family dynasty in North Korean propaganda,^[1] and is especially identified with Kim Jong-il because it is where official narratives place his birth. The adoption of that symbol testified to the rise of his status.^[2]

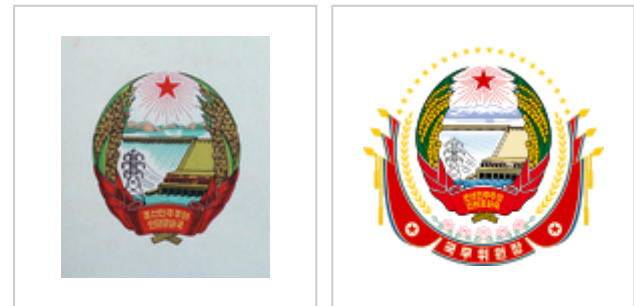


Emblem of the People's Republic of Korea from 1945 to 1946

Reconstruction of the first equivalent of an emblem published in *Chǒngro* in 1946

The emblem defined by the 1948 constitution but only used for two months

The emblem used from the founding of North Korea until 1993 features a generic mountain range



A variant of the emblem printed by the Foreign Languages Publishing House in 1960, showing the generic mountain range, as well as the design of the dam typical of the post-1993 standard.

Emblem used by the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission (2016–present)

Features

The national emblem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea bears the design of a grand hydroelectric power station under Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution, and the beaming light of a five-pointed red star, with ears of rice forming an oval frame, bound with a red ribbon bearing the inscription "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

Article 169 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1972, amended 2013)^[3]

The emblem features the Sup'ung dam under Mount Paektu and a power line as the escutcheon. The crest is a five-pointed red star. It is supported with ears of rice, bound with a red ribbon bearing the inscription "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea" in Chosongul characters.^[4]

While the design of the hydroelectric plant is generic in appearance,^[5] its identity is given away by the fact that Sup'ung was the only power station of its kind at the time when the emblem was designed.^[1] Sup'ung was constructed by the Japanese and is located in what is today the border with the People's Republic of China. In spite of the uncomfortable reference to colonial infrastructure as well as foreign territory,^[5] the choice of the image is not incidental and carries positive connotations. In the late 1940s, the North produced most of the electricity in the country.^[6] The dam symbolizes self-sufficiency in electricity: in the spring of 1948 shortly before the hydroelectric plant was added to the emblem, North Korea cut off her power network from the South.^[5]

The emblem, and all of its predecessors, follows the basic socialist heraldic design that was adopted in many other countries including, which clearly indicates the relations between the communist ideology and the foundation of the country at the onset of the Cold War.^[1]



Emblem at the North Korean embassy in Prague, Czech Republic.

Emblem at the fence of the North Korean embassy in Prague, Czech Republic.

The emblem above the entrance to the North Korean embassy in Moscow.

North Korean passport

See also

- Flag of North Korea
- Emblem of South Korea

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Further reading

- *100 Questions and Answers: Do You Know about Korea?*. Pyongyang: Foreign Languages Publishing House. 1989. OCLC 21301721 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/21301721>).
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External links

- National Emblem of the DPRK (http://www.naenara.com.kp/en/great/symbol_view.php?1) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160429171043/http://www.naenara.com.kp/en/great/symbol_view.php?1) April 29, 2016, at the [Wayback Machine](#) at [Naenara](#)

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